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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/623,407	10/19/2000	Thierry Kretz	RCA-90419	4982

22850 7590 05/21/2003

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EXAMINER

AWAD, AMR A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2675

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/623,407

Applicant(s)
Thierry et al.

Examiner
Amr Awad

Art Unit
2675



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 13, 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 11 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 11/13/2002 has been considered by the Examiner; see attached PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US patent NO. 5,426,447) in view of Yamazaki et al. (US patent NO. 6,219,022; hereinafter referred to as Yamazaki).

As to claim 1, Lee (figure 1) teaches a process for displaying data on a matrix display (14) (column 4, lines 22-38). Lee (figure 2) teaches N data lines (data lines D_1 to D_{384} ; i.e., $N = 384$) and P selection lines (row lines 1-z; i.e., $P = 240$ the example in figure 1) at the intersections of which are situated the image points or pixels (column 5, lines 31-37 and column 6, lines 33-41). Lee teaches that the N data lines are grouped into P' blocks of N' data lines (Lee teaches X groups wherein the example shown in figure 2 has 6 groups, each group includes 64 data lines)

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(column 5, lines 52-57), wherein $N = P' \times N'$ (the number of data lines is 384 which is equal to the number of groups (6) multiplied by the number of data lines for each group (64)). Lee teaches that each block receiving in parallel one of the P' data signals (video signal supplied to data line D_1 to D_{64} for the first group) which is demultiplexed on the N' lines of the block (column 6 lines 48-60).

Lee does not expressly teach alternately, according to the selection lines, the scanning of the N' data lines of a block is carried out from 1 to N' and from N' to 1.

However, Yamazaki (figure 7) teaches an active matrix display that includes a plurality of display portions (001a, 001b, 001c and 001d) (column 5, lines 44-47) and wherein the scanning of each display portion is alternately carried out in opposite direction (figure 15, column 4, lines 44-46 and column 8, lines 49-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Yamazaki of having the scanning of the display portion (i.e, display block) carried out in opposite direction (as shown in figure 15 for example) to be incorporated to Lee's device so as to avoid the retrace period (the time required to return to the first line) and therefore increasing the speed of addressing and scanning of the display device. Furthermore, bidirectional scanning taught by Yamazaki will provide uniform brightness by scanning the display alternately from both sides and therefore avoiding having the first written line brighter than the line written last.

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4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and Yamazaki as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kwon (US patent No. 5,850,216).

As to claim 2, note the discussion of Lee and Yamazaki above. As can be seen above, Lee and Yamazaki teach all the limitations of claim 2 except the citations of scanning from the first to last line then from last to first is carried out every second line. Note that Yamazaki (figure 15) shows the way in which the scanning line is bidirectional which may suggest having bidirectional scanning every second selection line. However, such suggestion is not clearly stated.

However, Kwon (figure 5) teaches a bidirectional scanning wherein the scanning from left to right (GL1 line) and then from right to left (GL2 line) is carried out every second selection line (column 6, lines 26-35).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Kwon having the scanning carried out alternately every second line (odd and even lines) to be incorporated to Lee's modified device so as indicated above, to avoid the retrace period (the time required to return to the first line) and therefore increasing the speed of addressing and scanning of the display device. Furthermore, to provide uniform brightness by scanning the display alternately from both sides and therefore avoiding having the first written line brighter than the line written last.

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5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and Yamazaki as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Koyama et al. (US patent NO. 6,177,920; hereinafter referred to as Koyama).

Note the discussion of Lee and Yamazaki above. As seen above, Lee and Yamazaki teach all the limitations of claim 4 except the citations of at least one programmable logic circuit associated with line counter determining the reversal direction of the scan.

However, Koyama teaches an active matrix display having the direction of selecting the signal lines or the scanning lines can be readily changed to forward or backward by selecting whether the synchronous counter is operated at the rise of the clock signal (up-count) or at the fall thereof (down-count), and the bidirectional driving is enabled without an increase in number of drive circuits (column 9, lines 44-50). Note that an example of the counter as disclosed by Koyama is logic circuit shown in figure 6 (column 5, lines 51-53 and column 6 lines 33-34).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the teaching of Koyama having a logic circuit counter for determining the direction of the scanning to be incorporated to Lee's modified device so as motivated by Koyama, the bidirectional driving is enabled without an increase in number of drive circuits (column 9, lines 44-50).

Allowable Subject Matter

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6. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

None of the prior art of the record either singularly or in combination teaches or fairly suggests a scanning direction from first to last lines (1 to N') and from last to first lin (N' to 1) carried out for four successive selection lines, the scan being carried out in a first direction for two successive selection lines and in a second direction for the other two succeeding selection lines.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2 and 4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231.

or faxed to:

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(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amr Awad whose telephone number is (703) 308-8485. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday--Friday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Saras, can be reached on (703) 305-9720.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amr Awad", with a stylized flourish at the end.

A.A.

May 14, 2003.